

SPORTS

Cobb carries Minnesota past Middle Tennessee 35-24

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — David Cobb was coming off the first 1,000-yard season for a Minnesota running back in seven years, but he wasn't satisfied. So he hit the weights even harder, followed a more disciplined diet and returned for his senior season in even better shape.

The hard work might have only begun.

Cobb had 29 carries for two touchdowns and a career-high 220 yards, the most for the program in nine years, and the Golden Gophers outlasted Middle Tennessee for a 35-24 victory on Saturday.

"It's hard to take him off the field when he gets hot," coach Jerry Kill said, adding: "I feel like he's faster than he was a year ago."

Donnell Kirkwood also had a first-quarter touchdown run for the Gophers (2-0), who rushed for 284 yards but again had trouble moving the ball through the air. Mitch Leidner threw a pretty 27-yard touchdown pass to tight end Maxx Williams in the second quarter immediately after Damien Wilson's interception, but he completed just 5 of 11 passes for 67 yards and was picked off in the end zone right before halftime.

Then he got hurt.

Leidner walked gingerly off the field at the end of a drive early in the fourth quarter after a lineman was pushed into his leg during a follow-through on a throw, and he had his left knee examined on the sideline. Leidner was walking back and forth without trouble after that, but with the Gophers holding an 18-point lead freshman Chris Streveler took over at quarterback. Kill said he's concerned.

"We'll see what happens with the quarterbacks and things, but it's going to be real important for David to continue what he's doing," Kill said.

With Cobb rumbling through the line, deftly reading the defense and breaking tackles down the field, another uneven passing performance didn't affect the Gophers. Cobb was the first 200-yard rusher for the Gophers since Amir Pinnix on Nov. 12, 2005, against Michigan State. Cobb's total was the highest since Laurence Maroney had

258 yards against Wisconsin on Oct. 15, 2005.

"He runs behind his pads, and he runs behind some really big guys too. He's a hard back to tackle," Middle Tennessee coach Rick Stockstill said.

With fifth-year senior Kirkwood, bruiser Rodrick Williams and flashy freshman Berkley Edwards, the Gophers are deep in the backfield. But this is Cobb's show, and the senior from Killeen, Texas, is just getting going with eight career starts. He took over the featured role by midseason and finished 2013 with 1,202 yards.

"I need to borrow probably \$300 from the athletic director to take the O-line out to eat," Cobb said jokingly, before crediting the tight ends and wide receivers for their down-field blocking, too. "When they do it like that, the holes open up and everything's easy."

Reggie Whatley scored twice for the Blue Raiders (1-1) while rushing for 84 yards on 14 attempts, but despite 255 yards on 22-for-38 passing Austin Grammer was picked off three times. Jalen Myrick returned one for a score.

Grammer was at fault for only one of the interceptions. His intended receiver ran into an official and stumbled before Myrick's pick. Thieren Cockran grabbed Grammer's arm as he threw on the next series, and Wilson caught the ball that went straight up in the air.

Stockstill was elated by the way the Blue Raiders played after falling behind 28-0 late in the second quarter. They had too many penalties (nine for 80 yards) and missed a 41-yard field goal but outplayed Minnesota for most of the second half. Grammer, after a 61-7 win over FCS foe Savannah State last week in his first career start, found a rhythm while the Blue Raiders were trying to catch up.

"Every snap it just gets easier and easier. I love this team. They make it easy for me," Grammer said.

Kill said he thought the Gophers lost some intensity after halftime. They've been playing a lot of freshmen on defense, too, with injuries in the front seven.

"We can't make this an ongoing process of giving



Gophers running back David Cobb (27) finds open running room in front of Middle Tennessee's Quay Watt (22) and Shubert Bastien (55) while Gophers offensive lineman Zac Epping (52) looks on in back in Saturday's game at TCF Bank Stadium. Cobb rushed for 220 yards and two touchdowns in Minnesota's 35-24 victory over the Blue Raiders.



Gophers defensive back Jalen Myrick (28) returns an interception 31 yards for a touchdown in Saturday's home game against Middle Tennessee.

up points in the second half after shutting people out in the first half. Let's go ahead and play a full game," Myrick said.

Whether or not Leidner is healthy, the Gophers are going to be a power-running team. So Cobb has plenty of full games left to play him-



From left, Middle Tennessee quarterback Austin Grammer (2) is rushed by Gophers linebacker Jack Lynn (50) in Saturday's game at TCF Bank Stadium.

self. "We wanted to throw the ball a little more," Cobb said, "but today we kind of got into a rhythm running so that's what we stuck to."

SIJHL HOCKEY

Meyer makes shootout game-winner over English River

Lakers down Miners in their preseason play

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

A goal by Mason Meyer of International Falls in the fourth round of the shootout

was the difference Saturday evening when the Fort Frances Lakers edged the English River Miners, 3-2, in Superior International Junior Hockey League preseason play at Ice for Kids Arena.

After a scoreless opening period, Alex Rezanoff put the Lakers on the score-

board late in the second period.

English River tied the game midway through the third on a goal by Cody Colby and then took the lead at 12:26 when Alex Maticic scored.

Fort Frances answered back 55 seconds later to force overtime when Rezan-

soff notched his second goal of the evening and fourth of the preseason.

Neither side would convert during the five-minute overtime, so extra shots were needed to determine a winner.

In the shootout, both teams connected on their first two attempts with

Colton Spicer and Carter Chorney scoring for the Lakers along with Eric Champagne and Maticic for the Miners.

Rezanoff and Kirk Coppock of English River were then thwarted in round three before Meyer, a 2012 FHS graduate who is in his third season with Fort Frances, won it on his shootout attempt. Matthew Ray was denied a goal on the Miners' final shootout opportunity.

Stirling Wright started in goal for the Lakers and stopped all 15 attempts he saw in 30 minutes of work with Devin Day turning aside 19 of 21 in relief.

P.D. Melgoza kicked out all 14 pucks he faced in his stint in net for English Riv-

er, while Jesse Fontaine suffered the shootout setback by allowing two goals on 15 chances after playing the second half of the contest.

Fort Frances' final two preseason games will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Memorial Arena against the Dryden Ice Dogs and 3 p.m. Sunday at Ear Falls Arena against English River. The Lakers then open the regular season Sept. 19 at 7:30 p.m. at Ice for Kids Arena against the Thunder Bay North Stars.



Mason Meyer

FALLS AREA CROP HUNGER WALK

Sunday, September 14th – 2:00 p.m
10k walk from Smokey Bear Park to Ranier and back

A fun family event; walk for a cause - walk for fitness.
We walk to raise funds to help hungry people in our community and around the world.

How Do I Register?

1. Get a walker form*
2. Get folks to sponsor you
3. Walk with others from the community on September 14th

*Forms are available through these area churches and organizations: Bethany Lutheran Church, Faith United Church of Christ, First Lutheran Church, The Salvation Army, Zion Lutheran Church, and Falls Hunger Coalition (Tuesdays-Fridays)

Our goal is to raise \$6000, or more!
Won't you walk with us?

On behalf of FEF Purple Pride Committee we would like to thank all who supported the Purple Pride Golf Scramble fundraising event. Funds generated from this event will benefit all Co and Ex-curricular activities of School District #361. Every sponsor, participant, donation and volunteer contributed to the success of this fundraiser and we thank each and every one of you. It appeared all enjoyed the fun, hope to see you next year!

FEF Purple Pride Committee

MESOTHELIOMA LUNG CANCER

If you or a loved one have been diagnosed with Mesothelioma, Lung Cancer or any other asbestos related disease contact us for a confidential review of your rights. There are strict time limits in which to bring these claims. Shermoen & Jaksa, PLLP has been representing Minnesota asbestos victims for over 20 years. We are one of only two Minnesota law firms that regularly litigate asbestos cases.

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